(c) what is the number of messes and dining halls in these hostels, University-wise;

(d) what is the number of students taking their meals in messes and dining halls, University-wise; and

(e) what is the amount spent by every student as mess or dining hall charges per month, University-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (e) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Staff in Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia

596. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(b) what is the present strength of staff employed in Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia,

(b) whether the staff is adequate to handle the Indian Haj Pilgrims; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to increase the staff of Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) There are two Indian missions in Saudi Arabia *viz.*, Embassy of India Riyadh and Consulate General of India, Jaddah. The combined strength of these two is sixty three (63) based and twenty six (26) locally employed.

(b) In addition to above staff strength the government provides temporary posts during each haj season in government's medical mission to Saudi Arabia and Government offices at Jaddah, Makkah and Medina opened during haj season under the control of Consulate General of India, Jaddah.

(c) The staff strength in all the Indian missions abroad including the staff at Indian missions in Saudi Arabia and the staff required during haj season is kept under constant review and additional staff is provided as and when necessary.

Import of Airconditioned Coaches for Tourist Transportation

597. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATON be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to import 150 airconditioned coaches for improving the transportation system in the country for tourists; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Government have decided to release free foreign exchange in favour of approved Travel Agents, Tour Operators and Car Operators for one time import of 150 airconditioned coaches. The import of coaches would be subject to such travel agents placing order for an equal number of indigenous coaches on one to one basis.

Widening of National Highways in Tamil Nadu

598 SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some National Highways are proposed to be widened in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, including the funds allocated for that purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed statement.